Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 28 beginning at page 7, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[28] In a single unidirectional bridge application, two I^2C domains are separated by a bridge constructed, as described below, with a single microcontroller chip. Since the bridge constructed in this manner is a unidirectional bridge, transactions may pass only in one direction - from a port-A side of the bridge to a port-B side. However, the direction of data flow can be bi-directional, allowing both reads and writes. Used in this manner, the bridge device can act as a sort of "firewall." For example, suppose an I^2C implementation contains multiple masters, and one of these masters is not multimaster capable. By placing the nonmultimaster-capable master by itself on the port-A bus, and connecting the other masters and all slave devices on the port-B bus, the nonmultimaster device on the port-A bus would be able to communicate with all the devices on the port-B bus (through the bridge), but would be freed from the burden of handling the many complexities of multimaster I^2C. A detailed disclosure of a firewall device constructed in this manner is set forth in United States patent application serial number 09/630,099, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING SINGLE MASTER DEVICES TO A MULTIMASTER WIRED-AND BUS ENVIRONMENT, filed on August 1, 2000 by Joseph J. Ervin and Jorge E. Lach, now U.S. Patent No. 6,591,322 B1, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.